

(U//FOUO) Fire as a Weapon of Terrorism

(U//FOUO) Terrorists Arson attacks are being deployed as they are far easier to conduct than bombing attacks. The materials required to start a fire are cheap and readily available. There have been several recent incidents, and it is likely to be used even more in the future. *(No Web EOC report)*



(U//FOUO) On May 12, arson heavily damaged the Diyanet Mosque in New Haven, Connecticut, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In another recent attack on a house of

worship, two attempts were made May 18 to set fire to the Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel synagogue in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. The remains of several Molotov cocktails were found outside the building. Motives for these arsons have yet to be determined.

(U//FOUO) On May 18, photos appeared on social media of a cellphone-based remotely activated initiator for incendiary devices that the Islamic State has been using in arson attacks against the crop fields of farmers who ignored the group's ransom demands.

(U//FOUO) Palestinian militants launched incendiary devices that set alight crop fields and grasslands in southern Israel on May 22. Just one of the devices destroyed 12 acres of wheat in Kibbutz Alumim.

(U//FOUO) Arson is increasingly being used. One drawback is the ability to put the fire out before significant damage is caused. Because of this, many arson attacks are conducted at night in remote locations.

(U//FOUO) What Does This Mean to You?

Regardless of their ideology, terrorists will use the tools at their disposal to create fear and media coverage. In hostile environments, they have far less operational space to plan and execute their attacks. Counterterrorism measures have made it difficult for would-be terrorists in some places to acquire the weapons they need for a bombing attack or even an armed assault. Because of this, emergence of a style of terrorism in hostile environments that consists of lone attackers or small cells conducting simple attacks using readily available weapons have been identified.

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